

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 01237 260915Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-04 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05
EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-06 OMB-01 CEA-01
AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 DOE-11 SOE-02 ACDA-12
NRC-05 INT-05 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 PA-01
PRS-01 OES-07 /151 W
-----024829 261344Z /46

R 250413Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8763
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 1237

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: EAID, ENRG, EFIS, EPAP, VM, SN, UK, NO
SUBJECT: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN VIETNAM

1. VISITORS FROM HANOI BRIEFLY REVIEWED THE STATUS OF SEVERAL
WESTERN-SPONSORED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN VIETNAM.

2. THE SWEIDSH PAPER AND PULP MILL PROJECT IN BAI BANG STARTED
IN 1973 AND SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1979 MAY BE COMPLETED
SOME TIME IN THE 1980S. THE COST OF THE PRONECT HAS ALREADY
DOUBLED FROM ORIGINAL ESTIMATES.

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3. NORWEGIAN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS ARE ALSO ENCOUNTERING PROBLEMS.
A NORWEGIAN FINANCED FISH FACTORY IN HAIPHONG IS CURRENTLY
OPERATING AT 10 PER CENT OF CAPACITY AND HAS NEVER WORKED BEYOND
30 PER CENT. DESIPTE THIS, TWO MORE FISH FACTORIES ARE BEING
BUILT. A NORWEIGAN-SPONSORED PLANT TO PRODUCE FISH MEAL FOR
HUMAN CONSUMPTION IS ALSO PLANNED FOR RACH GIA THIS YEAR.
PART OF THE FAILURE OF THE FISH INDUSTRY WAS BLAMED ON

MISMANAGEMENT BY THE FORMER MARITIME PRODUCTS MINISTER, NGUYEN QUANG LAM, AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW MINISTER, DO CHINH, THE SITUATION WILL IMPROVE.

(COMMENT: AS MORE FISHING BOATS ESCAPE TO THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, THD SRV IS FORCED TO TURN TO GREATER SECURITY CONTROLS BY IMPOSING FUEL, TIME AND PLACE LIMITATIONS ON THE SOUTHERN FISHING FLEET. THESE ADDITIONAL OBSTACLES COMBINED WITH THE BOAT LOSSES, THE LACK OF ENGINE SPARE PARTS, THE SHORT-AGE OF FUEL, AND NEGATIVE REACTION TO COLLECTIVATION BY THE TRADITIONALLY INDEPENDENT SOUTHERN FISHERMEN CAN ONLY RESULT, AT LEAST IN THE SOUTH, IN EVEN LOWER FISH PRODUCTION.)

4. IN THE AREA OF VIETNAM'S GREATEST HOPE, OIL, THE NORWEGIANS ARE PROVIDING A GRANT OF APPROXIMATELY \$10 MILLION AND A SHORT LOAN OF APPROXIMATELY \$38 MILLION FOR OFF-SHORE PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS WHICH WILL BE HEADQUARTED AT YUNG TAU. THREE TEST HOLES ARE PLANNED TO BE DRILLED THIS YEAR, THE FIRST IN FEBRUARY.

5. A BRITISH FIRM HAS BEEN GRANTED A CONTRACT TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUGAR PRODUCTION IN TAY NINH PROVINCE AS WELL AS OTHER BORDER AREAS FURTHER SOUTH. IT WAS OBSERVED THAT AS LONG AS THE VIETNAMESE/CAMBODIAN BORDER DISPUTE CONTINUES, THERE WOULD BE LITTLE PROGRESS EXPECTED IN THIS AREA.

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6. ONE OBSERVER, TRAVELLING RECENTLY OUTSIDE OF HANOI, REPORTED MEETING SEVERAL FORMER PROSTITUTES FROM THE SOUTH, WHO WERE UNDERGOING "RE-EDUCATION." THE GIRLS, WHO WERE SEEN WORKING THE FIELDS, CHATTED WITH THE VISITOR IN ENGLISH AND ASKED FOR CIGARETTES. (COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE NOTED SEVERAL REPORTS OF FORMER ARVN OFFICERS BEING USED FOR HARD LABOR IN THE NORTH, THIS IS THE FIRST REPORT WE HAVE SEEN OF CIVILIANS BEING SENT NORTH.)

SHOESMITH

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